

BOARD OF APPORTIONMENT PUBLIC HEARING
HOPE

THURSDAY, JULY 26, 2001

---O---

University of Arkansas at Hope
Auditorium
2500 South Main Street
Hope, Arkansas

---O---

COURT REPORTER:

DONNA K. PETRE, CCR
Petre's Stenograph Service
Post Office Box 1027
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-1027

1 * * * * *

2 P R O C E E D I N G S

3 * * * * *

4 THURSDAY, JULY 26, 2001

5 6:10 p.m.

6 * * * * *

7 SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST: Okay.
8 Good evening. I am going to officially
9 call this meeting to order. The Board of
10 Apportionment meeting-- now, Mark. Is it one
11 of those clappers?

12 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: You
13 touch it.

14 SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST: I
15 was saying that this lamp is going to be tough
16 on old eyes and, of course, I am talking
17 for myself, not for Mark. First of all, we
18 want to let you know how much we appreciate
19 your being here this each evening. This is a
20 very important step in the process of
21 redistricting.

22 And one of the things, the most important
23 things, you will hear me emphasize it, you will
24 hear Mark emphasize it, and you will probably
25 hear the staff emphasize it, this is a draft.

1 It is a draft map. It is not a final map. The
2 Board has not voted on this map. It is
3 something that the staff prepared for us
4 to bring out, and for people to take a look at
5 and make a determination, give us some input
6 and give us an opportunity, then, to go back
7 and maybe make some changes.

8 These lines are not carved in stone, they
9 are subject to change. In fact, we would all
10 be most surprised if nothing changed on the
11 maps. And I am going to tell you right now,
12 from the other hearings, we know that there
13 will be changes made to the maps.

14 Let me also say that we had a very
15 good census in Arkansas this year. We
16 grew almost 14 percent, which I think is
17 terrific, and it is wonderful for us in terms
18 of revenue, just the growth over anticipated
19 growth. We were anticipated to be at about two
20 and a half million. We actually ended up at
21 2,673,400 people. But that, over a period --
22 say, 173,000 people, over a period of ten years
23 equates to about \$12 million. So, that is good
24 for Arkansas. We are very pleased.

25 Unfortunately, it doesn't always work that

1 well for redistricting, and there are some
2 counties, most of the counties in the south
3 that have lost population, and that has created
4 some major challenges for us as we are drawing
5 those lines. In fact, the ideal Senate
6 district now has 9,300 people more than it did
7 from 1990, from the 1992 redistricting. The
8 ideal House district has changed by about 3,200
9 additional people.

10 So, it has created some challenges and it
11 has made, obviously, districts in South
12 Arkansas, geographically larger
13 and in Northwest Arkansas, where they
14 have gained quite a bit of population,
15 geographically smaller. So, there have
16 been some challenges there. But most of all,
17 we want you to know, these lines are not carved
18 in stone.

19 It is important that you are here to
20 participate in this part of democracy. As the
21 chief elections official for the State of
22 Arkansas, and I think you all know that I have
23 been very involved in elections in the State
24 of -- and in this country, actually, since
25 November the 8th of last year. I truly believe

1 that elections are the core of democracy, but
2 it starts with redistricting, making sure that
3 we follow the one person, one vote rule. And
4 we have tried to be as fair and equitable as is
5 humanly possible, making those districts
6 as equal as can be. And you will hear
7 more about that from Butch Reeves.

8 Before I turn it over to Mark, let me just
9 say that the Governor is not here tonight
10 because Janet was released from the hospital
11 today, and he went to -- he went to the
12 hospital to bring her home. And so, he was
13 doing other duties today. So, we just wanted
14 to let you know the reason why the Governor
15 wasn't here, and he expresses his regrets. And
16 I am going to turn it now over to Mark for a
17 few
18 comments.

19 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Thank
20 you. Basically, since the Governor is not here
21 today, Sharon and I agreed that if you all like
22 what we are doing, Sharon and I did it, if you
23 don't, the Governor did. Okay? No, that is not
24 true at all, but he did want to pass on his
25 regrets for not being here. And he mentioned

1 he hated had to miss Hope, most of all, just
2 because it is home for him.

3 And we appreciate all of you all
4 being here. Sharon pretty much hit the nail on
5 the head when she said we have tried to solicit
6 as much input as possible. It has been a long
7 process. And the way this meeting will work
8 is -- it is fairly straightforward. We will
9 make our comments here, and then we will turn
10 it over to Butch Reeves, who is the Governor's
11 legal counsel, who is from Hope. And as we
12 were driving into town, Butch was telling us
13 all the places -- all the people he knows and
14 all the places he used to go and all the
15 stories behind everything, so it was fun
16 to have Butch as our little tour guide.

17 But we will -- have you got that? Is that
18 better? We will let Butch kind of give an
19 overview of the process and how
20 the Apportionment Board staff works, and what
21 the legal criteria are for what we are doing
22 here. One thing that is interesting, we are
23 the only state in the union that does it this
24 way. But it does make sense, Sharon being the
25 chief elections officer, the Governor being the

1 chief executive officer of the state, and the
2 Attorney General being the chief legal officer
3 of the state, it just kind of makes sense
4 that every ten years we would sit down
5 and redraw the districts.

6 But the staff has done a great job.
7 We have Larry Crane, Tim Humphries, and Butch
8 Reeves here, and they have just done an
9 outstanding job. I know that some of you all I
10 have talked to personally about this process,
11 and I know that these three and the rest of the
12 staff has talked personally to a lot of folks,
13 and have tried to have an open door and get as
14 much input as possible.

15 And Dennis and David Beatty, I probably
16 shouldn't tell this story, but I will. The
17 other day, I was in my office, and I had
18 probably had a little too much input, if
19 you know what I mean. I had had people calling
20 me and kind of wearing me out about how
21 districts ought to look and what we ought to do
22 in various parts of the state. So, I decided to
23 play a little joke on a state senator. And I
24 called him up and I said, "Senator," and by the
25 way, I won't name his name, but I said,

1 "Senator," I said, "I have got bad news for
2 you." He said, "What is that, Mark?"

3 I said, "We have eliminated your
4 district." He said, "What do you mean?" And I
5 said, "Well, your neighbor from the east came
6 in and he made his pitch, and so we gave him
7 half your district, and then your neighbor from
8 the west came in and he made his pitch, made
9 his case, we gave him the other half of your
10 district." He said, "Mark, let me tell you
11 about those two guys." He said, "My neighbor
12 to the east, he is a shyster and his dad before
13 him was a shyster." He said, "My neighbor to
14 the west," he said, "he never shows up at any
15 meetings. I have to vote for him half the
16 time. And he is just in the Senate to line his
17 own pockets."

18 And I had thought, "Man, this conversation
19 is not going very well, you know, it is not
20 going like I thought." And I said "Senator,
21 look," I said, "I was just kidding. We did
22 redraw your district, it looks fine. It ought
23 to be exactly what you want. You ought to be
24 completely happy with it." He said, "Mark," he
25 said, "how could you make me say that about two

1 of the dearest friends a man ever had?"

2 But that is kind of how the process
3 is. It is a little emotional, and that
4 is okay, because we are talking about your
5 right to be represented in state government,
6 that is very important. We all take it
7 very seriously, and we have spent hundreds of
8 hours, cumulatively thousands of hours,
9 probably, if you add all the staff hours
10 in this, talking to people and trying to
11 get input, and trying to take all these local
12 concerns into our consideration about drawing
13 these districts.

14 And we are kind of down, getting close to
15 the end of the process. And we will let Butch
16 take over from here and we will let him explain
17 how the process works. So, Sharon, I will turn
18 it back over to you.

19 SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST: Before
20 we to go to Butch, let me just say one final
21 thing in terms of the plan. I want you to
22 remember, we -- the three of us are elected
23 officials. It is our desire to make as many
24 people as possible happy. We don't -- we are
25 really not trying to make people mad in this

1 process, we are really trying to make you
2 happy. So, keep in mind that we are open to
3 your suggestions.

4 We do have a court reporter here, who
5 is making an official transcript of the
6 meeting. So, I would ask you to proceed,
7 when -- when the time comes for comments,
8 to proceed to the microphone and make your
9 comments. And also, you may want to line
10 up there as you are making comments so that we
11 don't have to wait while people move from their
12 seat to the microphone.

13 And now, I am going to turn it over
14 to Butch Reeves, who is another hometown
15 boy from Hope.

16 MR. OLAN REEVES: Thank you. We just kind
17 of wanted to give you a background on what this
18 process is about. We started last fall, the
19 staff members went to 13 cities in Arkansas,
20 had some public hearings like this in different
21 places, got comments of what people wanted. We
22 didn't have any census numbers. We got those
23 in March, we put them in the computer. By the
24 third week of April, we started drawing maps.

25 We started in Texarkana and went to

1 West Memphis and Blytheville. We started
2 in Fayetteville and Rogers and went all the way
3 to Lake Village. We started in El Dorado and
4 went to Harrison. We have done it about 20 or
5 40 different ways, and this is our suggestion
6 to the Board. They have all seen it, but
7 nobody has voted on it yet. That is why we
8 need your input. Does Rosston need to be with
9 Prescott? That is what we need to hear. Does
10 this town need to be with this town? That is
11 what we need to hear. What needs to happen in
12 this county? Some of us don't know that. So,
13 we need to hear that.

14 To kind of tell you the process, the
15 guidelines that we used. The United States
16 Constitution really says one person, one vote.

17 That is what this process is about. Every
18 House district should have about 26,734 people
19 or as close to that as you can get. Every
20 Senate district should have 76,383 people or as
21 close to that as you can get.

22 Every county along the border of the
23 southern part of Arkansas either stayed
24 the same or lost population. So, if you
25 are one of those counties, your district had to

1 get bigger to get that many people in there.
2 Whereas in Northwest Arkansas, they gained
3 population, their districts actually shrunk and
4 got smaller, because it had have more people in
5 it. That is just the reality of the population
6 shifts.

7 The Arkansas Constitution merely requires
8 that the Board's decision not be arbitrary.
9 That means, what guidelines did they use? And
10 here they are, they are set out by the United
11 States Supreme Court as interpreted in the
12 Constitution in a myriad of cases over the
13 years, but basically, this is it.

14 Compactness, that means trying to get the
15 district as small as you can get it and still
16 have those numbers of people in there.
17 Contiguity, that means that they have to touch.

18 You can't have a part of a district in Miller
19 County and another part over in Columbia
20 County, they have to touch. Preservation of
21 political subdivisions, such as cities and
22 counties. That is why sometimes we did not
23 cross county lines if we didn't have. If we
24 could square it up and end at a county line, we
25 tried to. If we could stop at a river, we

1 tried to. We tried not to cut cities unless we
2 absolutely had to, as a consideration.

3 The other considerations, which are
4 just as important, are preservation of
5 communities of interest. Is this a
6 shopping hub? You are not going to have a
7 county where every city in it is the same size.

8 So, you are going to have a big city,
9 medium-sized cities, and a lot of rural areas
10 in these districts. But we tried to get the
11 communities of interest together in the same
12 House and Senate district as possible.

13 Preservation of the cores of
14 existing districts, this takes into
15 account incumbents. We didn't draw these
16 districts for incumbents, we had input
17 from incumbents, but we take into account where
18 the core of the current districts are and tried
19 to keep that unless it was impossible. And
20 there are some huge changes in South Arkansas
21 because of the population losses. So, if there
22 are huge changes in your county, the real
23 reason we changed it was because of the loss of
24 population. But we tried not to do that if we
25 didn't have to.

1 The last thing is compliance with Section
2 Two of the Voting Rights Act, that is something
3 we have to comply with. And so, some of the
4 districts are drawn with that in mind.

5 Now, here is essentially how the
6 process is going to work. We have two
7 hearings, next Tuesday we go to Hot
8 Springs, next Thursday, we have the hearing in
9 Little Rock. This is the ninth city we have
10 been to in three days. And we have had
11 comments every place we have been. The court
12 reporter will transcribe that for the Board, we
13 will sit down with the Board after that
14 August 2nd hearing and make any requested
15 changes that they ask us to make.

16 We have already been talking about some we
17 heard about today in El Dorado and some we
18 heard about in Pine Bluff, will that fit, will
19 that work? Hopefully, by Labor Day, we hope to
20 have a plan that the Board has voted on. Once
21 it is voted on and filed with the Secretary of
22 State, then that is the plan, unless and until
23 we get sued, then we go from there. But that
24 is essentially the time frame. By Labor Day,
25 we hope to have this plan finalized.

1 So, we are here to get your comments about
2 what you like or don't like, what you would
3 like to change, if you would like to say,
4 "Thank you for what you did," we will take
5 that, too. So, if you could go ahead and line
6 up down by the microphone, and please state
7 your name and what county you are from. If you
8 represent a Quorum Court, if you represent --
9 if you are a county judge, or if you represent
10 a group of people, please tell us that. If you
11 are just here as a citizen, tell us that, too.

12 So, if somebody wants to be first, I feel
13 like Bob Barker on Price is Right, "You all
14 come on down." But we would like your
15 comments, so go ahead and somebody be first,
16 and everybody else kind of line up behind them.

17 MR. JAMES BROWN: I always did like to be
18 first. I am James Roy Brown, a Nevada County
19 Judge, and I want to personally talk about
20 the -- I want to thank you for the Senate
21 district, I think you did a good job. The
22 representative district, we basically got the
23 same thing that we had ten years ago, that is,
24 we have got three representatives, it is good
25 in one sense and bad in another.

1 Ten years ago, we had Prescott with
2 Hempstead County, which most of the folks
3 in Prescott, when they go shop, go to -- come
4 to Hope, if they go out of town. We try to
5 talk them into staying in town and shopping,
6 but you can't always do that. But when they do
7 go out of town, most of them will come to Hope
8 and shop. You were talking about trying to
9 keep, you know, your districts together, where
10 we have a hub of where we go shopping and stuff
11 of that nature.

12 20 years ago, we had Nevada County
13 and Pike County as one district, which, you
14 know, I know there is not enough people in Pike
15 and Nevada County to make a district now, and I
16 am not asking to do that. But I would like to
17 see Nevada County have no more than two
18 representatives, and would like to see Prescott
19 and the northern part of Nevada County -- I
20 would like to see all of Nevada County
21 together, but I don't go figure I will see
22 that.

23 We, in Nevada County, over the years
24 have had sort of an imaginary line that
25 the southern part of the county always felt

1 like they got left out of the northern part of
2 the county. And we have been working on this
3 to try to do away with it. And now then, we
4 have got a sure enough line that is sending the
5 southern part of the county to Hempstead
6 County, and the lower part of the county to
7 Clark County, and the eastern part of the
8 county to Ouachita County.

9 And I would just like to see Nevada County
10 have no more than two, and preferably have the
11 northern part of the county going into
12 Hempstead County, because that is where most
13 all of us go shop, and we know more people over
14 here. That is about all I have got to say.
15 And do I know you all have got a long, hard job
16 ahead of you and, you know, I feel for you.
17 But I appreciate the time.

18 MR. OLAN REEVES: I would like to make one
19 other announcement. There was a suggested map
20 out there, and that map only applies to Howard
21 and Pike County. But Howard County came and
22 asked us could we not split them three ways, so
23 at their suggestion, we have a proposed map
24 that puts Howard County in two districts. It
25 has not been adopted yet, but they asked us to

1 print that up, so we have it out there for
2 anybody from Howard County.

3 MR. JAMES CONWAY: James Conway, the mayor
4 of Western Hempstead County of the town of
5 McNab, representing a group of peoples. We
6 certainly do appreciate what you have
7 constructed, and it looks real good. We are
8 pretty much satisfied with the way that you
9 have drawn the district. I don't see no big
10 problem there, but I think that the problem we
11 are faced with now is that we lost, we --
12 according to the census, we lost a lot of
13 population. That is not so.

14 We dropped from approximately
15 90 peoples in our town to 34, and that is
16 what is causing us a problem now. We all are
17 tax-paying citizens and we have worked hard to
18 try to get the water and sewers projects
19 beginning, and they are on their way, we are
20 bringing that in, but we don't have any funding
21 at this time because of the 75 percent loss in
22 that.

23 And whatever you can do to kind of assist
24 us to kind of get it back to the record, and
25 when they go back and do the census count

1 again, that they will do it according to, I
2 guess, population of the counties. But
3 certainly we are faced with some difficult
4 problems at this time.

5 MR. OLAN REEVES: Thank you.

6 MR. DICK TALLMAN: I am Dick Tallman, the
7 Sevier County Judge. And I am real happy with
8 the way it is draw up right now. I didn't know
9 that you had already had a redraw for Howard
10 County, but I knew that was coming, because our
11 representative and our senator are both from
12 Howard County at this point, or at least the
13 main part of the county. So, I knew that they
14 would be screaming about the three-way split
15 and having Sevier County all in one piece of
16 pie there.

17 That is great for us, and if it -- I guess
18 I am up here to say, if the noise level gets
19 too high and you feel like you have got to do
20 something there, then if you have to break my
21 county into two pieces, the obvious place to
22 break it is below Lockesburg. Those folks in
23 the south part of the county pretty much align
24 with Little River County and Howard County,
25 anyway. The school districts are Mineral

1 Springs and Ashdown, south of Lockesburg. So,
2 and don't get me wrong, I am not trying to give
3 away part of my county, but that is the obvious
4 place to break it, if you feel like you have
5 got to do that.

6 Again, I am real happy with the way it is
7 right now. And it is just once in lifetime you
8 get the President Pro Tem to be your senator,
9 so we would certainly like to hang onto as much
10 of Sevier County in Jim Hill's district as
11 possible. Although Barbara has been very good
12 to us, too, we are happy to have her move a
13 further up in the county. Thank you.

14 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Thank
15 you. But you are happy on the Senate side, as
16 well?

17 MR. DICK TALLMAN: Yes.

18 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Okay. Great.

19 MR. RUSS BENNETT: Okay. We moved south.

20 Old District 22, Number Four now, which -- and
21 under the old plan had the south half of Miller
22 County and then it had the Springhill box in
23 the south part of Hempstead County, and it also
24 had Waldo and Taylor over in Columbia County.
25 And I am losing Springhill, which I really --

1 really, I have got a lot of good friends there.

2 I hate to lose that, but I can understand
3 Hempstead County wanting to be together. And I
4 think that probably is a good thing on this
5 plan. But I guess my comments -- positive
6 comments would stop there.

7 The way the district was drawn, I had the
8 south half of Miller County, and have worked
9 with those folks for two terms, and they know
10 me and I know them, and we get along fine. And
11 that is a good part of the compact district the
12 way it was. It is a whole lot more
13 gerrymandered now than it was before.

14 A couple of suggestions. You have been to
15 El Dorado. Let me ask you what you heard about
16 my district -- the part of my district that
17 goes into the south part of Union County. Were
18 there complaints over there about that?

19 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Well,
20 yes. The folks in Union County would
21 rather have almost kind of a donut shape House
22 district, one that goes all the way around
23 Union County, in other words, all up -- I mean,
24 one that goes around El Dorado.

25 MR. RUSS BENNETT: El Dorado, right.

1 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: In other
2 words, the rest of Union County be whole.

3 MR. RUSS BENNETT: Right.

4 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: But, you
5 know, that is a consistent theme that we hear
6 around the state, is people would love to keep
7 their county whole or love to keep their city
8 whole. And we understand that. So, you know,
9 on this map, compared to the maps over there
10 that we are presently under, the existing
11 districts --

12 MR. RUSS BENNETT: Right, right.

13 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: -- we have
14 done a much better job, I think, of keeping
15 counties whole.

16 MR. RUSS BENNETT: Okay.

17 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: And so, we
18 are sensitive to that.

19 MR. RUSS BENNETT: All right. What I was
20 going to suggest, District Seven -- or is it
21 Six? Excuse me, District Six, which is El
22 Dorado itself, now?

23 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Yes, uh-huh.
24 (Indicated yes.)

25 MR. RUSS BENNETT: Is nearly neutral

1 on the percentages there. I think it is, what,
2 .047, it is just a hair, half a percent over.
3 I don't know how much of that could be absorbed
4 by -- I think there is four precincts there,
5 four or five, I believe it is four. And I
6 don't know how many of them could be absorbed
7 by District Six and then District Seven.

8 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Uh-huh.
9 (Indicated yes.)

10 MR. RUSS BENNETT: A little into Seven,
11 because they are already over a little,
12 they might could take one precinct, and
13 the other two -- you know, the other three
14 precincts might could be absorbed. I am
15 not sure what those populations are. But that
16 is just a suggestion from my point of view.
17 Those folks have very little in common with
18 somebody from Lafayette County. And seeing as
19 those other two precincts -- or other two
20 districts, other two districts, Six and Seven,
21 Six especially, is just right at even. It
22 could absorb some and help those people to be
23 in the same county all together there.

24 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Right. Just
25 for your knowledge, District Seven, as it is

1 currently drafted, and again, the key word is
2 "draft" --

3 MR. RUSS BENNETT: Right.

4 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: -- is almost
5 four percent over the optimum.

6 MR. RUSS BENNETT: That is right. They
7 couldn't take much --

8 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Right,
9 right.

10 MR. RUSS BENNETT: -- if any, to still be
11 in compliance. But Six --

12 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: District
13 Six --

14 MR. RUSS BENNETT: They could take quite a
15 few.

16 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: -- is almost
17 exactly optimum.

18 MR. RUSS BENNETT: It would put them over,
19 but still within the five -- is it five
20 percent?

21 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Five
22 percent, yes, sir.

23 MR. RUSS BENNETT: And that would put
24 those people with people that they have the
25 common thought with. The other thing that

1 I would suggest, and I don't know if -- I think
2 Ken Cowling left. Frank, you spoke with him
3 for a minute?

4 MR. FRANK SCROGGINS: Yes.

5 MR. RUSS BENNETT: I don't think he could
6 stay. But Ken Cowling has inherited the south
7 half of Miller County which I now have. And I
8 talked with him here, then I talked with her
9 earlier today up at the -- we were both at a
10 committee meeting in Little Rock today. And we
11 are probably both equally unhappy with that.
12 I would like to keep it, he would not --
13 he really would not like to go there.

14 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Which
15 part of the district? I am sorry.

16 MR. RUSS BENNETT: The south half of
17 his district, which if you look at the current
18 map, or the current district, I have the south
19 half of Miller County.

20 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Right,
21 right. Under the existing district? As it is
22 existing?

23 MR. RUSS BENNETT: That is right. That is
24 correct. And his district is Two, I believe.
25 He is 3.81 over, and I am District Four, I am

1 4.64 percent under.

2 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Right. So,
3 in other words, what you would like to do, if I
4 understand it is, in effect, no offense to the
5 folks in Union County, but you would like to --

6 MR. RUSS BENNETT: No, no.

7 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: -- block
8 that out and get back into Miller County?

9 MR. RUSS BENNETT: If they would fit, that
10 is correct. If they would still -- staying
11 within the five percent guidelines, if those
12 Union County people could be included in those
13 two precincts there. And I haven't spoken to
14 any of them, but you have been over there.

15 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Right,
16 right.

17 MR. RUSS BENNETT: You know, I just
18 feel -- I just know how my county feels, and I
19 feel like they would like to be a part of their
20 county's representation, if possible. That
21 would not bring the district out of compliance.

22 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Right.

23 MR. RUSS BENNETT: It would make me
24 even smaller than I already am, or the district
25 that I am currently in. And as a result then,

1 I could begin to pick up some of that excess
2 that Ken Cowling has in South Miller County.

3 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Well,
4 that is one of those that --

5 MR. RUSS BENNETT: Which would bring
6 it back a little more like it is now.

7 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: That is one
8 of those that when we get back to Little Rock,
9 we can sure look at that and run the numbers
10 and see if that is workable.

11 MR. RUSS BENNETT: Okay.

12 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: One
13 observation, by the way, just to let everybody
14 know. And it stands to reason, but maybe you
15 never thought about it, when you are in an area
16 around the borders of the state where you have
17 got Louisiana to the south, Texas to the west,
18 there is just not a lot of place you can go.

19 MR. RUSS BENNETT: Yeah. I thought
20 you couldn't do anything to two-sides me, but
21 you did.

22 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: We found
23 a lot of things.

24 MR. RUSS BENNETT: You found a way. But at
25 any rate, those are my suggestions.

1 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Thank
2 you.

3 MR. RUSS BENNETT: Because you do have --
4 there are options within the five percent there
5 that could bring my district more like it was,
6 and it would also probably make those Union
7 County folks a lot more happy. Thank you.

8 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Thank
9 you. Russ Bennett.

10 MR. RUSS BENNETT: Russ Bennett. I
11 forgot.

12 MR. FRANK SCROGGINS: And I am Frank
13 Scroggins, Lafayette County Judge. First
14 of all, I would like to ask one question. When
15 you create the minority districts, what kind of
16 percentage do you have to have for the
17 minorities, 51 or greater or 60 percent or
18 greater to satisfy?

19 MR. OLAN REEVES: It depends, because the
20 numbers you are looking at on those charts we
21 gave you, that is total
22 population.

23 MR. FRANK SCROGGINS: Yes.

24 MR. OLAN REEVES: That is not voting
25 age population. We have looked at voting age

1 population in drawing these districts. So, if
2 we are drawing the minority one, it depends on
3 who you ask. Some would say 51 percent is
4 enough, some would say 60. So, it just
5 depends. And I hate to answer it that way, but
6 it just depends.

7 MR. FRANK SCROGGINS: Okay. Wait
8 a minute. That is what leads into what
9 I am going to ask. I feel the same as
10 Russ. You know, we were southern half
11 of Miller County with Lafayette, a little bit
12 of Hempstead, and we have picked up, I believe
13 it was Taylor and Waldo in Columbia County.

14 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: And,
15 Judge, for clarification, we are talking about
16 the House side only?

17 MR. FRANK SCROGGINS: House side only,
18 yes. We will talk about Senate in a minute.

19 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Okay. Sure.

20 MR. FRANK SCROGGINS: And on the House
21 side, you know, our continuity is more with,
22 you know, I feel like the people in lower
23 Miller County. We have a relationship
24 with them. And then, when you have thrown in
25 this 2,200 people plus over in the lower end of

1 Union County, you know, we don't have any, you
2 know, connections there. And in looking at the
3 map, and you are talking about shifting, I see
4 that District Five is 4.29 under the allowable
5 number, but it is 59 percent, I believe,
6 minority district.

7 I think that to still keep your
8 minority district, that you can do some
9 shifting of Union County that a way and
10 maybe absorb this, you know, little nook that
11 you have a Union County. And also, in Ashley
12 County, you have a 4.3 under allowable. There
13 may be a way to shift Union County or the lower
14 part of Bradley, District Eight, which I see
15 that District Eight is a plus 3.73, shift
16 it over and then shift Union County that a way.

17 I know this is a tough job and
18 everybody has got their own opinion of
19 it, and -- but what I want to see is our
20 district stay more like it was. You know, we
21 have been diluted from a district that was
22 roughly 45 percent population of the district
23 in Lafayette County to around 30 percent. And
24 we have been fortunate in the past to have our
25 representative to live in our county.

1 You know, we are one of the small
2 rural counties of Arkansas, one of the handful
3 under 10,000 population. And I believe with
4 the shift, with the district like it is, that
5 we are probably going to lose, you know, our
6 representative. I don't see how we can compete
7 with the, you know, 60 something percent that
8 is going to be to the east of us, in with it.

9 But I see that reaching out past, you
10 know, the 12 counties down here and doing some
11 shifting to the east and to the north, that
12 possibly, you know, this shift could be made
13 into -- you know, put us more into Miller
14 County and reduce that District Two, which
15 is -- I believe, is going to be about four
16 percent, 3.8 percent above the allowable, and
17 then shift it to us, and would, I think, give
18 us more continuity.

19 That is the way I feel about it, in
20 my opinion. And I am going to be honest with
21 you, my biggest concern is losing
22 the representative that lives in my county. But
23 I mean, that is my biggest complaint about
24 it. And I know that you all have spent months
25 on it, and we have talked about it, I have been

1 to several meetings, and I appreciate the hard
2 work that you all have done. And the work you
3 have done has been good work. But I just
4 wanted to tell you to adjust it a little bit.

5 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Well, we
6 understand we are not quite there yet.

7 MR. FRANK SCROGGINS: Yeah.

8 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: And we
9 are willing to just face that we will have
10 to adjust.

11 MR. FRANK SCROGGINS: And we have a
12 delegation of about 12 people here, and
13 they may want to take about another two hours,
14 three hours, too, to tell you the way they feel
15 about it. You know, I am speaking really from
16 myself and what I see from my county, and they
17 may have some input in it, too.

18 When we get to the Senate side, I am, you
19 know, happy with it. I think it is -- you
20 know, it will be good with it.

21 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Good.

22 MR. FRANK SCROGGINS: So, that is all
23 I have at this time. And I appreciate you all
24 coming.

25 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Judge,

1 let me ask you one quick just point of
2 clarification.

3 MR. FRANK SCROGGINS: Okay.

4 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: When
5 you introduced yourself, you said you were from
6 Lafayette County. I have always heard it
7 pronounced "Lafayette".

8 MR. FRANK SCROGGINS: Well, now, when
9 I pronounce it, you can do it either way.

10 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: What is
11 that?

12 MR. FRANK SCROGGINS: When I pronounce it,
13 you can do it either way. When you say you are
14 from Lafayette County, it is how you spell it.

15 And I say, "You spell it 'Lafayette'," so, you
16 know --

17 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Okay. I
18 just wondered.

19 MR. FRANK SCROGGINS: You know, nobody
20 knows how to spell Lafayette, so --

21 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Okay.
22 I just wanted to make sure there wasn't a
23 movement afoot right now to go back and to --

24 MR. FRANK SCROGGINS: We are one and all,
25 we are one and all. Appreciate it.

1 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Okay. Thank
2 you.

3 MR. LYNN ROE KING: I am a transplant down
4 in Lafayette County.

5 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Yes, sir.

6 MR. LYNN ROE KING: I am not a cajun,
7 so it is not "Lafayette". Okay?

8 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Okay.

9 MR. LYNN ROE KING: I am Lynn Roe
10 King, superintendent of Lewisville School
11 District, a district that is compromised in the
12 area of Lafayette and Miller County. I did a
13 consolidation a few years ago with the Garland
14 School District, which compromises an area
15 encompassed essentially by the Red River
16 township over in Miller County, which under the
17 previous alignment was in our district, was in
18 Senator -- or excuse me, Representative Russ
19 Bennett's district, who just spoke to you a few
20 minutes go.

21 And I would just like to kind of reiterate
22 what Judge Scroggins has related to you and
23 Representative Bennett in terms of the shift.
24 I would certainly like to keep my school
25 district contiguous and in alignment with that

1 representative district, and not have it split
2 out as it was proposed in this draft map by
3 keeping a portion of Miller County, that those
4 townships or two in that area of Miller County
5 are part of the district, and keeping my
6 district contiguous as far as representation in
7 the House.

8 I can understand the situation, and
9 I realize the perils. And I have been to UALR
10 here a few days ago with some of my East lab
11 students, and we are working on maps and trying
12 to work some zone information ourselves, and I
13 realize and appreciate Larry and some of them
14 sitting here with the problems that you all are
15 facing with this in trying to align and balance
16 everything, Mark, with what you have related to
17 us at the beginning there.

18 But if this shift takes place in terms of
19 going to Columbia County and over into Union
20 County, there is no question about, in voting,
21 what is going to happen to Lafayette County and
22 its representation as far as a representative
23 is concerned. We are probably going to lose
24 that. And that is very important to educators
25 in that area, the school districts in Lafayette

1 County.

2 With this -- with the court hearing
3 here on this latest Lakeview situation, I
4 am sure there is going to be some situations
5 developing, probably in the next year or two.
6 It is pure speculating, but I can see further
7 consolidations in this state. And I think this
8 is something -- you know, this is a ten-year
9 plan that you people are proposing here.

10 And that is something that, I think,
11 visionaries need to be thinking about in terms
12 of school districts, county alignments, because
13 there is only one county in this state that has
14 contiguous school districts for counties, and I
15 believe that is Cleveland County. The rest of
16 them, you know, we are splitting out into all
17 counties everywhere we go. And so, I would
18 certainly like to keep Miller, or that portion
19 of Miller, that I represent, and we serve the
20 students and the commerce, from that standpoint
21 for that school district.

22 And again, I appreciate your efforts.
23 I think the Senate situation is fine. Senator
24 Owens has done a tremendous job this past
25 session, and we certainly appreciate her. And

1 I like the alignment on the Senate. But the
2 House, I would sure like to see you tweak that
3 a little bit.

4 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Thank
5 you. You know, what might be helpful for
6 us, if you haven't already done it is, I know
7 you are talking about around Garland, you know,
8 and Miller County, which is just across the
9 river. If you could maybe send Larry Crane a
10 map of how far into Miller County the school
11 district goes --

12 MR. LYNN ROE KING: Right, sure.

13 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: -- so we can
14 have kind of a feel for how that looks.

15 MR. LYNN ROE KING: Be glad to.

16 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: And that
17 might make -- let us do a more educated study
18 of that.

19 MR. LYNN ROE KING: Okay.

20 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Thank
21 you.

22 MR. LYNN ROE KING: Thank you, again.
23 Thank you very much.

24 SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST:
25 Superintendent, congratulations for using those

1 East kids, they will do a real good job for
2 you.

3 MR. LYNN ROE KING: Thank you.

4 MR. JOE GRAHAM: My name is Joe Graham, I
5 am chairman of the Hempstead County Democratic
6 party and chairman of the Hempstead County
7 Election Commission. I want to thank you first
8 for your hard work on developing these maps.
9 And I think what you did for our district on
10 the House side is a positive thing. I
11 think Hempstead County needs to be one
12 district. And if you start realigning
13 these counties, I would just ask your
14 consideration to keep Hempstead County together
15 on that.

16 And on the Senate draft, the way it
17 is drawn is fine, but if you could get all of
18 Hempstead County together on that, as well, I
19 think that would be a positive thing for our
20 county.

21 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Thank
22 you.

23 MR. JOE GRAHAM: Thank you.

24 MR. JACK DAUGHERTY: Jack Daugherty
25 from Columbia County, Magnolia, I am a business

1 person, the chairman of the Chamber of Commerce
2 and Magnolia Economic Development. Again, I
3 would like to thank you, as these others have,
4 for the hard work you have done. And as you
5 know, ten years ago, in the last census,
6 Columbia County was carved up into, I think,
7 five districts. And it was four districts --

8 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Four on the
9 House, three on the Senate.

10 MR. JACK DAUGHERTY: Four on the House,
11 three on the Senate. And as others are
12 stating, we did not have a representation that
13 lived the Columbia County representing Columbia
14 County, so we were -- it was hard for
15 representation for our area. If you have
16 listened to us through the last several years,
17 we want and need representation there, for
18 schools, growth, and the needs that we have.

19 The plan that you all had come up, I
20 think, as a whole, we appreciate it, we think
21 it will work for Columbia County, having two
22 representatives, and the Senate plan will work.

23 I think there is a little tweaking, you
24 probably have received input from and --

25 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: We talked to

1 your clerk today, actually.

2 MR. JACK DAUGHERTY: We appreciate that.
3 But I just want to state that, help Columbia
4 County out, and we need the representation.
5 Thank you.

6 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Thank
7 you.

8 SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST:
9 Thank you.

10 MR. CHARLES BLACK: I almost feel like
11 a traitor following Jack. I am a native of
12 Columbia County, I am now president of a bank
13 in Lewisville, Arkansas, so you see where I am
14 coming from on. The things I want to --

15 SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST: Sir,
16 would you state your name for the Court
17 Reporter, please?

18 MR. CHARLES BLACK: Charles Black. Excuse
19 me. Charles Black. The things I want to
20 follow up on is what Lynn Roe said, and
21 Representative Bennett, and also Frank
22 Scroggins. We are closely aligned to the
23 Miller County area and the Red River area. I
24 am on the Arkansas Red River Commission, the
25 secretary/treasurer of that, and we are working

1 trying to get navigation down the
2 river.

3 We feel like that Representative
4 Bennett has been working very hard for us. We
5 are not for sure that someone that is possibly
6 up located in El Dorado or in the western part
7 of the -- the eastern part of Columbia County,
8 that we would have the same representation we
9 have now. Garland City is a big issue with us.
10 And if you will move further south, and I am
11 sure we have a representative from Bradley with
12 us, but maybe farther south, in the farming
13 community there, is more closely aligned with
14 the other side of the river on the Miller
15 County side.

16 We do appreciate everything that you have
17 done, but we do feel like that we are being
18 somewhat penalized and losing some of our --
19 the little bit of clout that we do have. So,
20 we would appreciate some consideration in
21 trying to keep our representatives that we have
22 and possibly having a new one when his term
23 limit goes out. Thank you.

24 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Thank
25 you.

1 MS. REBECCA MARTIN: My name is
2 Rebecca Martin, I am a former Democratic
3 candidate for what used to be District 22. I
4 guess I am going to piggy-back what all
5 of Lafayette County has said. Being a former
6 candidate, I know it was very hard to travel
7 across those areas of Lafayette, Columbia,
8 Hempstead, and Miller that we already had.

9 To redistrict, as I see on the map, it was
10 very confusing in Columbia County the first
11 couple of times to figure out where we were
12 going. We have a similarity and things that we
13 share in common with a part of Miller County
14 that was already in our district, I think it
15 would be a disservice to the constituents of
16 that area, especially once term limits is
17 over, to realign all of that, because those of
18 us who are familiar with the area, we are
19 familiar with the constituents in that area, we
20 are familiar with their needs.

21 If we are to be swallowed up by part
22 of Columbia County and a small portion of Union
23 County, which we have very little in common
24 with, not only would we lose our voice, I think
25 that we will lose the essence of what was is

1 needed in that area of our district.

2 So, although we appreciate, and we know it
3 is a difficult task that you all have, or that
4 you have to do, but we would like for you to
5 consider the fact that although we had no
6 control over the population growth or decline
7 in our county, we do feel that the
8 representation that we have had in the years
9 past, that is it needed still in that county,
10 because we are a group of people understand
11 each other, who understand our needs. And
12 hopefully we can all work together to
13 accomplish those things. Those who have shared
14 views and shared ideas normally accomplish
15 things. Thank you.

16 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Thank
17 you.

18 SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST:
19 Thank you.

20 MS. DIANE FLETCHER: I am Diane Fletcher
21 from Lafayette County, and I would like to
22 thank you for what all you have done. And
23 I would like to ask you -- to tell you that I
24 agree with what all the citizens, the judge,
25 and Representative Bennett, and Mr. King, and

1 all the others have asked you to do. I would
2 ask that you please consider moving -- giving
3 us back that part of Miller County in any way
4 possible. Thank you.

5 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Thank you.

6
7 SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST:
8 Thank you, Diane.

9 MR. TROY BUCK: I am Troy Buck, from
10 Alpine up in Clark County. We are tickled to
11 death with the Senate, and we would like for
12 you to do the same thing in the House, in
13 putting us back with a rural district. I don't
14 know there is enough numbers to make a lot of
15 difference, because we only had about 150
16 votes, I think. And I represent -- I am the
17 unelected spokesman for that group of people at
18 Alpine and Amity.

19 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: You are
20 talking about up in the very northwest corner
21 of Clark County?

22 MR. TROY BUCK: Yes, sir, right.

23 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: All
24 right.

25 MR. TROY BUCK: See, we did it in the

1 House, we put us over there with Glenwood and
2 Hot Spring and Montgomery County. But in the
3 Senate, you put us back with row crop and flat
4 land country. And we are chickens and cattle.
5 And it would make his district pretty wide
6 right through that narrow spot.

7 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Okay.

8 MR. TROY BUCK: Thank you.

9 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Thank
10 you.

11 MR. RAY TURK: My name is Ray Turk, I
12 am from Lewisville, Arkansas, I am on the City
13 Council there. And I was here to support the
14 districting. And we appreciate what you all
15 have done, but I would like to reiterate what
16 the previous spokesmen have said, that we would
17 like to be considered to be put back in Miller
18 County, because we have a little more to do
19 with Miller County than we do over in Union
20 County.

21 It is kind of hard to associate
22 yourself with somebody over in that part
23 of the -- nothing against those people,
24 they are good people over there. But we would
25 like you to reconsider that, would you please,

1 sir? Thank you.

2 SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST:

3 Thank you.

4 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: We will look
5 at it. Thank you.

6 MR. DAVID BEATTY: I am David Beatty, from
7 Lewisville and Lafayette County. I
8 am a lifetime resident of the county. I
9 appreciate you all coming down. I am impressed
10 to see the brass down here tonight. And I am
11 sorry the Governor is not here. I am not too
12 good with the numbers, but it look looks like
13 we are talking about basically District Four,
14 which is proposed for Lafayette County's part
15 in District Two, and Miller County.

16 Just a couple of notes I have made.
17 District Four is about 1,250 people under.
18 I can't do percentages well, but I know if you
19 have got about 26,000, we are about 1,250 under
20 and, really, a district that has lost
21 population or a county that has lost population
22 in these rural communities over the last 30
23 years, maybe longer.

24 The proposal, I agree with the judge
25 and the state representative from our area,

1 Lafayette County, and others, that if you add
2 part of Miller County, you add -- well,
3 especially the river townships, which are Red
4 River, which is Garland, and Cutoff, which is
5 just there, has a few folks in it, and then
6 Sulfur, which borders also Lafayette County on
7 the western side and joins with the Red River.

8 There is common interest in these, there is
9 families on both sides.

10 Everywhere you find a river crossing or a
11 narrow bridge, you find those things in common,
12 business interests, of course, there is farming
13 and lots of other businesses that has grown
14 over the years, small towns and communities,
15 more importantly, small schools. And the Red
16 River, as Charles Black has stated, we have had
17 a lot of interest and a lot of activity,
18 although you can't see a lot. But if you go
19 down there and dig, you find those rocks that
20 have been embedded in those banks for 40 or 50
21 years now to keep the banks stabilized.

22 There has been 30 years of association
23 with Miller and Lafayette County folks. I can
24 say that for 20 years of those, they haven't
25 always agreed, but the interest has generally

1 been the same, given the types of communities,
2 whether you have got chicken houses or pine
3 trees or farms or small businesses or small
4 industries, you have -- for a long time, I said
5 we didn't have an elevator or an escalator
6 anywhere in any those districts. Now, we have
7 one elevator, thanks to Frank Scroggins.

8 In the last 15 years or less, there
9 has been two major bridge projects to connect
10 the communities on the north end of the Red
11 River, it is proposed on the west boundary of
12 District Four, and on the south end, which one
13 replaced a ferry that had been there from the
14 time -- from the beginning of time. All of
15 these areas in Miller County, especially the
16 river townships that border, would be
17 contiguous.

18 The Red River School District --
19 the Red River township, which is what we call
20 the old Garland School District, voted many
21 years ago to combine, and Lewisville School
22 District voted to combine with Garland, and
23 there has been a school district there for
24 a long time. And I hate to see the vote of the
25 people be not really disenfranchised, but for

1 Lynn Roe King or his successor or whoever who
2 has to handle that business, it is certainly a
3 lot more common sense for those folks who have
4 traded in Lewisville, have families and
5 connections back and forth, to be in the same
6 legislative district and have the same state
7 representative.

8 Proposed District Number Two is about
9 a thousand over -- you all can do the numbers
10 better than I can, but relatively
11 speaking, would tend to gain population,
12 because the industrial capabilities, especially
13 in Little River County. They have been
14 fortunate, where we haven't. Probably lastly,
15 but not least important, the percentages of
16 African-American population in the two
17 districts, if you took these three river
18 townships on the eastern border of Miller
19 County, you will find the concentration of the
20 black populations in Garland and also in the
21 Doddridge and the Brightstar community,
22 and the rest of that district pretty well
23 doesn't have a very high density at all. It is
24 pretty low.

25 And by putting them over with a

1 district that runs on up north around
2 Texarkana, I think you will find that their
3 voting strength and their input in the
4 government would be much greater if they
5 are aligned with Lafayette County, which
6 is about a balanced community, and some of the
7 other communities which may fall in with the
8 district. But again, thank you all for coming
9 out. I really appreciate it. And thank you for
10 this time.

11 SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST:

12 Thank you.

13 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Let me
14 ask you something, David, before you leave the
15 microphone. It is just a question for context.

16 Let's just say hypothetically, and this is a
17 hypothetical. Let's just say, as we look over
18 on the eastern edge of District Number Four,
19 draft District Number Four on the House side.
20 Let's just say, again, hypothetically, we
21 cannot take that part of District Four out of
22 Union County, we have to leave them in there
23 for population reasons, just for number
24 reasons. Again, this is hypothetical. If we
25 have to keep that there, would you still want

1 that part of Miller County?

2 MR. DAVID BEATTY: Yes.

3 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Okay.

4 MR. DAVID BEATTY: Our district is -- the
5 group that -- the way you grouped that district
6 up, it is going to tend to lose population, as
7 you all stated earlier, that the whole South
8 Arkansas group does. And I don't think there
9 is really any danger of having a -- the things
10 that we have heard up in Northwest Arkansas the
11 last few years, they wanted to have theirs
12 redone in the middle of time for money, to
13 divide up for other purposes, anyway.

14 I think that we see a trend over
15 many years, at least in the 30 years I
16 can remember. I am more than 30 years
17 old. But we are going to lose population down
18 there, probably, unless something else happens.

19 Unless those people from California move back,
20 you know, all of our friends out there that
21 wait until they retire to come home. But now
22 they have got a good reason.

23 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: And the part
24 of Miller County that you are referring to, and
25 I think others are, is the part in the curve in

1 the Red River that, I guess, it is kind of the
2 northern, north central part of that eastern
3 part of Miller County?

4 MR. DAVID BEATTY: Lynn Roe King has some
5 maps of the district, and I think you will find
6 that it looked like the northeast corner, if
7 you can see that as a square or a rectangle.
8 That is where the Garland School District runs
9 all the way up and down the river, and it has
10 lots of land area. So, really, you are looking
11 at the eastern portion. And depending on
12 whether you go into the Beach township, which
13 is Fouke or Cleveland, which is Genoa, central
14 and below it, that gets right to the heart of
15 the south-central down below.

16 But that is -- yeah. I think if you said
17 the south half, you are -- you fudge a little
18 bit on the east side as you go up the river,
19 but if you can justify your numbers and the
20 policy of moving that, yeah. Those folks have
21 been with us a long time and we have been with
22 them.

23 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: And
24 would your priority be to take that whole
25 Garland School District?

1 MR. DAVID BEATTY: I would say to
2 follow the river down.

3 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Yeah.

4 MR. DAVID BEATTY: Because of the
5 issues that are -- they are going to be
6 important. That is one of the only resources
7 we have right in that area, that was farming,
8 and farming has been pretty tough. But that
9 could be a real boom, potentially. But if you
10 stopped it just on one township there, you will
11 have some differences, maybe.

12 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Okay.

13 MR. DAVID BEATTY: Thank you very much,
14 again.

15 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Thank
16 you.

17 MR. HARVEY HAM: I am Harvey Ham, I
18 am from Lewisville, from the Quorum Court. And
19 I agree with what has been said here about
20 leaving the school district together. You know,
21 we have a lot more in common with the people in
22 Miller County than we do in Union County. I
23 was raised in Garland, and I live in
24 Lewisville. And we still have a lot of family
25 on both sides of the river. And I don't know

1 of anyone, I don't think, in Union County. So,
2 we appreciate it if you all would take that
3 into consideration,
4 please.

5 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Thank
6 you.

7 SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST:
8 Thank you.

9 MR. OLAN REEVES: Anybody else?

10 MR. FRANK SCROGGINS: Let me make one
11 comment that I should have made earlier
12 that really concerns me as being a rural
13 county. You all are familiar with Revenue
14 Stabilization Act, and I know I am, I know
15 Diane is, and David is, and Russ. A lot
16 of these people don't understand the
17 Revenue Stabilization Act. And this is
18 one thing that concerns me about being put with
19 a larger county like Columbia that has a --
20 they are a class three county, we are a class
21 one county. Revenue stabilization is the
22 turn-back money that cities and counties get
23 every biennium to operate off of, it is divided
24 one percent equally.

25 Now, the shift in population has gone

1 to the populated areas. If you look up in the
2 northwest part of the state where you have the
3 growth in Pulaski County, it is going to come
4 to a point, and I know David and Russ fight --
5 have fought this, I know David did and Russ
6 does, too, to change that formula, one percent
7 equally to 75 counties, 25 percent of the
8 population.

9 So, the rural counties, if it gets
10 to where the representatives are from the
11 larger areas, they are going to starve us out,
12 and that is another big concern that I have for
13 the small cities and small county, is the fact
14 that if this Revenue Stabilization Act is ever
15 changed, we may as well consolidate with Miller
16 and Columbia or Hempstead Counties and go with
17 it.

18 And that is another factor, too, that I am
19 pushing so much to keep my representatives,
20 because my representatives have fought for us
21 to keep what we do have. And that is not just
22 us. There is other smaller counties throughout
23 the state, and they are all facing the same
24 thing with this, you know, crunch that we have
25 in economics, too. Thank you all.

1 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Thank
2 you.

3 MS. DOLLY HENLEY: Hi. I am Dolly Henley,
4 and I am a Hempstead County resident, live in
5 Washington, and I am a Howard County employee,
6 I work for the city of Nashville.

7 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Good.

8 MS. DOLLY HENLEY: And Mark, only -- and I
9 don't see any Howard County people here. Are
10 we supposed to be attending another meeting?

11 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Here we are.

12 MS. DOLLY HENLEY: Oh, girls, yes. Well,
13 my concern, and Mark, as I have told the
14 Highway Commission before, I like to see some
15 highways and some cities on some of these
16 county maps, because I get kind of confused on
17 where everything is.

18 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Yes, the big
19 map is probably better for that.

20 MS. DOLLY HENLEY: Okay, okay. Well, help
21 me to understand this, on the Howard County
22 side, on the Nashville side.

23 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: You are
24 talking about on the House draft?

25 MS. DOLLY HENLEY: On the house draft,

1 then we will talk about the Senate in a minute.

2 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Okay.

3 MS. DOLLY HENLEY: On the House draft,
4 those Northern Hempstead County folks who
5 attend school in Howard County, who buy
6 groceries and use the highways in Howard
7 County, not Hempstead County, and who need to
8 be heard in the legislature from the Howard
9 County folks, because that is who they are. We
10 need to get that Northern Hempstead County back
11 in that Howard County district, and there is no
12 doubt about it. We have had, as you knew, very
13 good representation in the House and in
14 the Senate with Representatives Larry
15 Teague and Jim Hill, and they have done
16 an outstanding job for our district.

17 The people in Northern Hempstead
18 County are Nashville, Howard County people. And
19 even though we know that tourists don't know
20 county lines, these folks who go to school up
21 there, I mean, they are Nashville people, they
22 are not Hope people.

23 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Uh-huh.

24 (Indicated yes.)

25 MS. DOLLY HENLEY: Okay? And I would just

1 like for you to reconsider that. And I know
2 you have looked at it many times, many, many
3 times, and I appreciate all your efforts. But
4 that northern part -- and I live in Washington,
5 but that northern part does not need to come
6 south, it needs to go on north and west of
7 Howard County.

8 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: So, wait
9 a minute. Let me see if I understand this. You
10 want --

11 MR. OLAN REEVES: She is talking about
12 right here. (Indicating.)

13 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Okay.

14 MR. OLAN REEVES: Right now, this precinct
15 and this precinct are in this district, House
16 district right now.

17 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Okay, okay.

18 MR. OLAN REEVES: She is talking about the
19 Hempstead -- the Hempstead, Howard County line
20 is about two miles from that.

21 MS. DOLLY HENLEY: Oh, it is not even two
22 miles from the bypass. I am telling you that I
23 do this every day. And it is just right there.

24 You can throw a good football, I mean, if you
25 are a Scrapper, you can throw a pass and hit

1 the county line.

2 MR. OLAN REEVES: Okay.

3 MS. DOLLY HENLEY: Several places,
4 you all, up there on even north -- up there on
5 27, like where MasterCraft and those guys are,
6 they get Hempstead County again. Those guys,
7 they have nothing to do with Hempstead County
8 except pay their taxes here. They listen to
9 the representative and the senator, I mean,
10 that is who they -- that is who we talk to up
11 there. Can you kind of feel that, Mark?

12 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Yes. And I
13 am just looking at it. And let me ask the
14 staff, maybe, Butch, you are the best one to
15 address this. But there is an alternative map,
16 I think you mentioned that was in the lobby?

17 MR. OLAN REEVES: Yes. But it doesn't
18 affect this. It affects these precincts
19 up here that go to this District 23, right up
20 here. (Indicating.)

21 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Okay.

22 MR. OLAN REEVES: Is this still Howard
23 County? Yes. So, Howard County really only
24 has two districts instead of three.

25 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Okay.

1 So, this does not address her questions?

2 MR. OLAN REEVES: She is talking about
3 this precinct right here and perhaps this one
4 right here. (Indicating.) I don't know how
5 many people that is.

6 MS. DOLLY HENLEY: Can you point to where
7 Nashville is? Can you get like Highway 278?

8 MR. OLAN REEVES: Nashville is going to be
9 right there. (Indicating.)

10 MS. DOLLY HENLEY: And you see that county
11 line?

12 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Uh-huh. It
13 is right on it.

14 MR. OLAN REEVES: I know. My mother
15 is from Nashville, I know right where it is.

16 MS. DOLLY HENLEY: Yes. Who is your mama?
17 Okay. Do you need to concentrate some more on
18 that, or you are okay?

19 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: No, ma'am, I
20 have got it. I got it.

21 MS. DOLLY HENLEY: Now, over on this
22 Senate side, in that Sevier County, and I need
23 to know where DeQueen is on the map.

24 MR. OLAN REEVES: It is right here.
25 (Indicating.)

1 MS. DOLLY HENLEY: Now, see, in city
2 government, you would kind of call that some
3 spot zoning. Everybody else kind of gets some
4 straight lines. And, now, these guys down here
5 in Columbia County, they have got some mess-ups
6 down there, too, we are driving a whole lot
7 around there, I saw. But --

8 MR. OLAN REEVES: That is DeQueen,
9 right there. (Indicating.)

10 MS. DOLLY HENLEY: DeQueen. Okay. DeQueen
11 has been taken out of our Senate district, is
12 that not right?

13 MR. LARRY CRANE: No.

14 MR. OLAN REEVES: I don't know. Let
15 me look at that. Was it in the other district
16 last time?

17 MS. DOLLY HENLEY: It is in the
18 district last time.

19 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: It still is.

20 MR. LARRY CRANE: It is still in 20.

21 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: It is still in
22 with Howard County.

23 MR. LARRY CRANE: It is with Howard
24 County, it is in Jim Hill's district.

25 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: It is

1 with Polk, Howard, Pike, and the northern part
2 of Hempstead.

3 MS. DOLLY HENLEY: So, you guys are
4 telling me that has not changed? That is
5 not --

6 MR. OLAN REEVES: This is the same.

7 MS. DOLLY HENLEY: Those lines have
8 not changed?

9 MR. OLAN REEVES: It is still that
10 same district.

11 MS. DOLLY HENLEY: Okay. I can be
12 happy with that, then. We don't want to change
13 this. We are not crazy about the Leopards, but
14 we like them when we are voting over there.
15 That is all I have to say. But that House
16 district, really and truly, bear down on that
17 one.

18 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: In
19 other words, even though we have tried hard to
20 follow county lines, are saying that should be
21 the exception of the rule, that that county
22 line there is really arbitrary?

23 MS. DOLLY HENLEY: Oh, no doubt about it.

24 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Well,
25 we will look at it when we get back and

1 see what we can do.

2 MS. DOLLY HENLEY: Okay. I appreciate it.

3 Thank you.

4 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Thank
5 you.

6 MR. OLAN REEVES: Anybody else?

7 MR. MARC ROSSON: I am Marc Rosson
8 from Sevier County. I like the -- on the
9 House, I like the way it is done, it keeps the
10 whole county intact at this time where it was
11 not before. The only difference I would like
12 to see, if you all could, would be the area
13 around Dierks. A lot of the citizens from
14 there go to DeQueen to do their shopping. And
15 that --

16 MR. OLAN REEVES: Is that Dierks
17 right here? (Indicating.)

18 MR. MARK ROSSON: Yeah, that first
19 line there. If you all can take that into
20 consideration.

21 MR. OLAN REEVES: Okay.

22 MR. MARK ROSSON: Thank you.

23 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Now, under
24 this proposed change, where is Dierks, is that
25 it right there? (Indicating.)

1 MR. OLAN REEVES: It is has always been in
2 23, right there. (Indicating.) It has always
3 been in -- at least in the maps we have drawn
4 up, it has always been in 23, it didn't change
5 that.

6 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Now, sir, do
7 you like it in 23 or we would you rather have
8 it in 21? You like it in 21?

9 MR. MARK ROSSON: Yeah, in 21.

10 MR. OLAN REEVES: He is talking moving it
11 over here. (Indicating.)

12 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: All
13 right. We will have to look at that.

14 MR. MARK ROSSON: Okay.

15 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: And run the
16 numbers, and see if that is feasible. Thank
17 you.

18 MR. OLAN REEVES: Anybody else? Okay.
19 Back to you.

20 SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST: Thank
21 you, Butch. I am going to ask General Pryor if
22 he has any closing comments he would like to
23 make?

24 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: I just want
25 to thank you all for being here. We need to

1 thank the college here for having us. This has
2 been a great facility and they have been a
3 wonderful host. And we appreciate all of you
4 all's time for coming and participating in our
5 democracy this way. Thank you very much.

6 SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST:

7 Thank you.

8 (WHEREUPON, at 7:20 p.m., the taking
9 of the above-entitled proceeding was
10 concluded.)

11 ---o---

12

SIGN-IN SHEETS.

MAPS.

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF ARKANSAS)
) ss.:
COUNTY OF PULASKI)

I, DONNA K. PETRE, Certified Court Reporter and notary public in and for the County of Pulaski, State of Arkansas, duly commissioned and acting, do hereby certify that the above-entitled proceedings were taken by me in Stenotype, and were thereafter reduced to print by means of computer-assisted transcription, and the same truly, and correctly reflects the proceedings had.

WHEREFORE, I have subscribed my signature and affixed my notarial seal as such notary public at the City of Little Rock, County of Pulaski, State of Arkansas, this the 28th day of July, 2001.

DONNA K. PETRE, CCR
NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND FOR
PULASKI COUNTY, ARKANSAS
LS CERTIFICATE #125

My Commission Expires:
August 4, 2010.

---O---